

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add, beginning at page 16, following line 29, the following two paragraphs:

Figure 17 is an isometric view of a portion of a card shoe with one of the playing cards of Figure 11 positioned relative to transmitting and receiving antennas and an radio frequency barrier to be read one at a time.

Figure 18 is a partial cross-sectional view of a portion of the playing card shoe according to another illustrated embodiment where a first antenna is positioned to electro-magnetically interrogate a number of the playing cards in the receptacle simultaneously.

Please add, beginning at page 16, between lines 24 and 25, the following two paragraphs.

Figure 17 shows one of the playing cards 10b of Figure 11, positioned in a playing card reader such as the card shoe 64 or discard shoe 58. In this embodiment, the playing cards are read one at a time while in the card shoe 64 or discard shoe 58.

a card shoe 64 including a plurality of playing cards 84 and a block or weight 86 for urging the playing cards 84 towards a slot 88. A portion 90 of the card shoe 64 may be formed of a radio frequency impervious, resistant or absorbent material, thereby forming an RF barrier. One or more antennas 78, 80 may be positioned to electro-magnetically interrogate a number of the playing cards in the receptacle simultaneously.